GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:460
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Smuggling/Trade of Animals
Gopalakrishnan Shri R.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are hundreds of websites involved in trade of rare animals and their body parts;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is contemplating to bring out guidelines/legislation specifically to curb smuggling and online trading of animals and their body parts; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such illegal acts in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)& (b) Several websites are seen advertising sale of rare animals and their parts. The details of various websites advertising rare animals and their parts collated by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau are at Annexure A.
(c)& (d) Illegal online smuggling of rare animals and their parts are being monitored under relevant laws existing under Department of Information Technology at both State and Central Government as a part of combating cybercrime.
Following steps are being taken by this Ministry through Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with limited resources available with it, to prevent such illegal acts:
1. Services of Cyber Crime Specialist on Contractual basis is being utilized to carry out regular cyber patrolling to detect any posts and offers over such trade portals on the World Wide Web:
2. On detection of such offers, details are retrieved of the suspect and the information is passed on to relevant enforcement agencies for legal action:
3. A meeting of representatives from online trade portals was convened on 19th May 2016 to discuss issues pertaining to online wildlife trade and sensitize them on illegal wildlife trade and to discuss modalities to assist Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in case of such detection.
4. During training and sensitization programme conducted by the Bureau, the issue of illegal online wildlife trade is being highlighted so that the officials involved in enforcement are abreast of such trends and taken necessary action.
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